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**DEVELOPMENT OF BEAM-TO-BEAM CONTACT DETECTION ALGORITHMS FOR
ROTOR-STATOR RUBBING APPLICATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

In nuclear power plant turbosets, the design-basis accident consists of a blade-off on the low pressure turbine last stage. During the accidental shutdown, a severe rotor-casing interaction may occur at critical speeds due to large shaft line displacements originated by a high unbalance excitation. The contact between the shaft and the stator, also called the diaphragm in this study, induces an important angular deceleration rate and greatly modifies the turbogenerator dynamics including the amplitude of the loads in the bearings. Therefore the main objective is to verify that the designed turbine is capable of going through critical speeds without catastrophic consequences for the shaft line. To this end, a model of a turbogenerator has been developed to compute rotor speed transients by considering the rotating speed of the rotor as an unknown, which allows for the angular deceleration due to rubbing to be calculated in a more realistic fashion. Lagrange multipliers method is applied to compute contact forces. The diaphragm, which is a non-rotating bladed disks assembly, is modeled by curved and straight beams, and different assumptions for the contact detection are studied to find a compromise between CPU time and accuracy. Results of the numerical tool show that the contact forces are sensitive to the retained assumptions only when heavy rub occurs. Nevertheless, the rotating speed and bearing loads are computed with a satisfactory accuracy, even with an approximation on contact detection that saves CPU time.

INTRODUCTION

In turbomachinery, contact between rotating and stationary parts of the turbine, usually referred to as rub [1, 2], is known to be a serious malfunction. Rub is usually caused by unbalanced rotor, blade-off, misalignment of the rotor centerline, thermal unbalance, casing excitations, to name a few. In this study, the shaft-diaphragm interaction only is considered: indeed, in real turbosets, the blades-to-diaphragm contact [3] is negligible in comparison to the shaft-stator interaction to compute the angular deceleration due to friction and the torsional stresses in the coupling components. For a detailed overview of rubbing phenomena and its associated literature, the reader is referred to the very thorough survey given by Muszynska [4].

During the past decades, numerous authors have developed and enhanced mathematical models characterizing the rotor-stator interaction. First mathematical models are the Jeffcott rotors [5] with the following assumptions: linear stiffness and damping, rigid disk on a massless shaft, Coulomb law as friction modeling, stator modeled by springs acting in the radial direction and sometimes with dampers. Moreover, due to its simplicity in programming, the penalty method is often used to compute contact forces. Then, with modern computers, the behavior of flexible rotors has been studied by finite element approach and/or modal synthesis techniques [6] allowing more realistic models. However these studies were limited to steady state analysis so that the angular velocity remains constant, which implies an in-

The paper is organized as follows. The first section presents the modeling of the two structures used in the numerical tool. The contact dynamics is investigated in the second section where assumptions are used during the contact detection. Finally, the different time integration results corresponding are compared.

In this section, the FE modeling of the two structures and the general algorithm to solve speed transients are presented.

A 1-D turbine system is built by modeling the shaft with straight spinning Timoshenko beams, bladed disks with circular rigid disk and imbalances with concentrated masses. An academic example is depicted in figure 1. The originality of the



Rigid disk The kinetic energy E_c^D of an axi-symmetric rigid circular disk rotating at an angular speed $\dot{\phi}$ takes the form:

where M_D , I_{DX} and I_{DZ} respectively stand for the mass, the second moment of inertia and the polar moment of inertia of the disk. Referring to figure 2, (u, θ_v) denotes the bending displacements in the (X, Z) plane, (v, θ_u) the bending displacements in the (Y, Z) plane, w the traction along Z axis and β , the torsion in Z direction. The derivative of x with respect to time is denoted \dot{x} . Within the small perturbation framework, the kinetic energy is rewritten as follows:

Equation (2) must be exact up to the third order so that all second order terms are retained in equations of motion. It is worth noting that the axial vibrations only are independent.

Shaft The kinetic energy E_c of the shaft corresponds to the integration of the disk energy along its longitudinal direction:

$$2E_c = \rho \int_0^l \left[S(\dot{u}^2 + \dot{v}^2 + \dot{w}^2) + I_x(\dot{\theta}_u^2 + \dot{\theta}_v^2) + I_p \left((\dot{\phi} + \dot{\beta})^2 + 2(\dot{\phi} + \dot{\beta})\dot{\theta}_u\theta_v \right) \right] dz \quad (3)$$

where ρ , S , I_x and I_p respectively refer to the mass density, the cross-section area, the moment of inertia and the polar moment of inertia of the beam. The potential energy E_d of a spinning Timoshenko beam is given by the following integral:

$$2E_d = \int_0^l \left[ES w_{,z}^2 + EI_x(\theta_{u,z}^2 + \theta_{v,z}^2) + GI_p \beta_{,z}^2 + kGS \left[(u_{,z} - \theta_v)^2 + (v_{,z} + \theta_u)^2 \right] \right] dz \quad (4)$$

where E , G and k respectively stand for Young's, shear moduli and the transverse shear form factor.

Bearings In real turbines, oil film bearings are used to support the shaft. The dynamical study of a shaft line requires to describe the nonlinear behavior of the oil film. As a first approach, stiffness and damping coefficients of the oil film are approximated by linearizing Reynolds' equations with respect to the equilibrium position. Moreover a comparison of results between linear and nonlinear modelings [11] has shown that the behavior of the crushed oil film, when passing through critical speeds, can be accurately approximated by a very stiff bearing.

The equations of motion derived from Hamilton's principle are nonlinear even without considering any contact.

DIAPHRAGM

A flexible diaphragm (see figure 3) has been developed to enrich the modeling of the interaction: the inner ring is modeled according to the theory of curved beams and the blades are considered as straight beams.

Inner ring: curved beams The inner ring, which initially belongs to the (x, y) plane, is depicted in figure 4. It is very thin so that the Euler-Bernoulli theory can be used. Consequently, the deformations of the curved beams [12, 13] are written as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon_{ss} = \frac{1}{R_c + r} (v_c + (R_c + r)u_{c,s} - R_c r v_{c,ss} + z\theta_s - zR_c w_{c,ss}) \\ \gamma_{rs} = \frac{z}{R_c + r} (R_c \theta_{s,s} + w_{,s}) \\ \gamma_{zs} = \frac{-r}{R_c + r} (R_c \theta_{s,s} + w_{,s}) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where u_c and v_c correspond respectively to radial and tangential displacements of the point that belongs to the centroidal line as

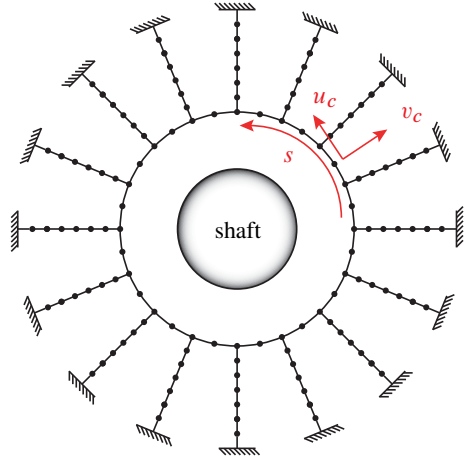


Figure 3. SCHEMATIC OF THE DIAPHRAGM MODEL

shown in figures 3 and 4. w_c refers to the axial displacements. The rotations in the 3-D space are introduced in figure 4. The path variable is denoted by s and R_c is the average radius of the inner ring. Considering that the radial distance r of a point that

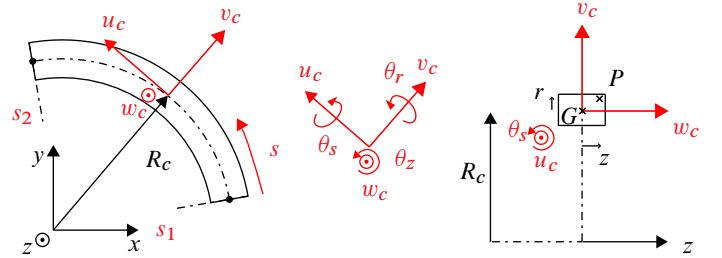


Figure 4. NOTATIONS FOR CURVED BEAMS

belongs to the cross-section of the curved beam is negligible in comparison with the radius R_c , ε_{ss} in equation (5) becomes:

$$\varepsilon_{ss} = \left(\frac{v_c}{R_c} + u_{c,s} \right) - \left(\frac{v_c}{R_c^2} + v_{c,ss} \right) r + z\theta_s - zR_c w_{c,ss} + O(r^2) \quad (6)$$

Then considering the linear elastic behaviour of the casing, i.e. $\sigma_{ss} = E_c \varepsilon_{ss}$, $\tau_{rs} = G_c \gamma_{rs}$ and $\tau_{zs} = G_c \gamma_{zs}$ (Hooke's law) where E_c and G_c are the Young's and shear moduli of the casing's material, the strain energy E_d^c for a curved beam element, ie an angular sector, is obtained by integrating on the elementary volume V_c :

$$\begin{aligned} 2E_d^c &= \int_{V_c} \{\sigma\}^t \{\varepsilon\} dV \\ &= E_c \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \left[S_c \left(\frac{v_c}{R_c} + u_{c,s} \right)^2 + I_{cr} \left(w_{c,ss} - \frac{\theta_s}{R_c} \right)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + I_{cz} \left(\frac{v_c}{R_c^2} + v_{c,ss} \right)^2 + \frac{G_c J_c}{E_c} \left(\theta_{s,s} + \frac{w_{c,s}}{R_c} \right)^2 \right] ds \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Application to rotor-stator system

In this study, the master body is the rotor and the slave the stator. Then the coordinates $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ of the casing must be determined. However, as the nonlinear detection of contact greatly increases the CPU time, different assumptions are made:

1. contact approximation (Hyp 1): the contact location on the casing (point C1 in figure 6) has the same angular position as the rotor geometric center;
2. exact contact (Hyp 2): $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$, referred as point C2 in figure 6, is computed by minimizing the gap function $g(\mathbf{x})$ which is analytically calculated for any material point of the diaphragm by considering the exact deformed shape of the stator.

Once the contact location is obtained, the gap function is linearized to construct the contact constraint matrix in the normal direction. The contact constraint matrix in the tangential direction is calculated by considering that only sliding occurs [3]. The

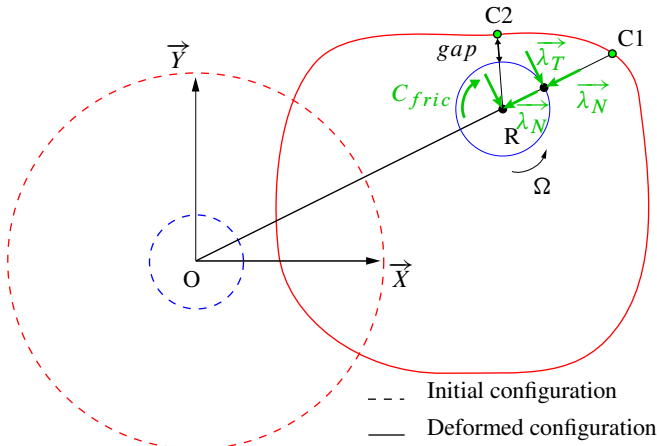


Figure 6. CONTACT DETECTION

radial contact force component λ_N is computed by using the Lagrange multipliers method, which guarantees the impenetrability condition. The tangential contact force λ_T , which is acting opposite to the direction of the relative sliding velocity, stems from the Coulomb friction law with an amplitude equal to $|\lambda_T| = \mu|\lambda_N|$. Finally, the friction torque takes the form $C_{fric} = \mu R F_N$.

3 GENERAL ALGORITHM

To the author's knowledge, the forward increment Lagrange method [10] gives satisfactory results for such contact-impact problems [3]. Consequently this method is used in our study: a finite central differences scheme combined with Lagrange multipliers (prediction-correction algorithm) properly satisfies the contact detection and ensures the compatibility of the speed and the acceleration.

Therefore, equations of motion are discretized in time according to central finite differences:

$$\dot{a} \simeq \frac{a^{n+1} - a^{n-1}}{2\Delta t} \text{ and } \ddot{a} = \frac{a^{n+1} - 2a^n + a^{n-1}}{\Delta t^2}$$

with $a = X$ or φ . X^n refers to the generalized displacements X in which bending, traction and torsion are stored at time t_n and Δt to the time step.

Since the system of equations is non-linear, a specific time procedure is developed in algorithm 1. As the aim of this study is to compute the response of a low pressure turbine in abnormal conditions, the initial and boundary conditions are given as follows: operating at normal conditions, the turbine is suddenly disconnected after the blade-off. Simultaneously, only aerodynamical and Newtonian fluid friction slow down the shaft line [16].

```

Initialization of  $X$  and  $\varphi$  for  $t_0$  and  $t_1$ 
For  $n$  from 2 to  $n_{end}$  do
  Prediction of  $(X^{n+1}, \varphi^{n+1})$ 
  Iteration to solve the nonlinear governing equations
  While ( $\| \text{Residual vector of equations} \|^2 \leq \varepsilon$ ) do
    If (No penetration) then
       $\lambda_N = 0$ 
    else
      Computation of Lagrange multipliers
      Correction with contact forces (in the normal direction  $\lambda_N$  and in the tangential one  $\lambda_T = \mu\lambda_N$ ) and the resisting torque due to friction  $C_{fric} = \mu R \lambda_N$ 
    end If
    New guess  $(X^{n+1}, \varphi^{n+1})$ 
  done
  If ( $\varphi_{n+1} < \varphi_n$ ) then
    break
  end If
  Results are recorded
  Next time step increment
end For

```

ALGORITHM 1: TIME INTEGRATION PROCEDURE

Since the exact contact detection requires to update the contact location at each iteration of the nonlinear solver, the CPU time prohibitively increases. Therefore, in order to find a compromise between CPU time and accuracy, the contact location can be chosen to remain the one obtained during the prediction step (no update in the iterative process).

4 RESULTS

The shaft line mode used for simulations is depicted in figure 1. The initial gap between the shaft and the diaphragm is equal to 8mm. Convergence of results with respect to the time step and satisfaction of the impenetrability condition have been shown in [9].

The sensitivity to the proposed assumptions for the contact detection is now studied: the computed rotating speed and the displacements at the bearing location are depicted in figure 7 and 8. Table 1 summarizes the main results.

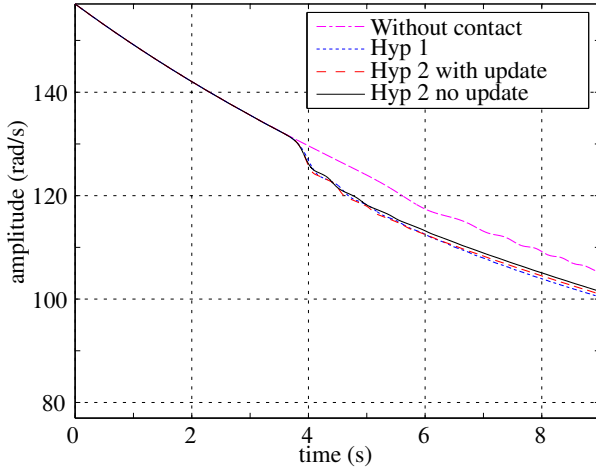


Figure 7. COMPUTED ROTATING SPEED WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

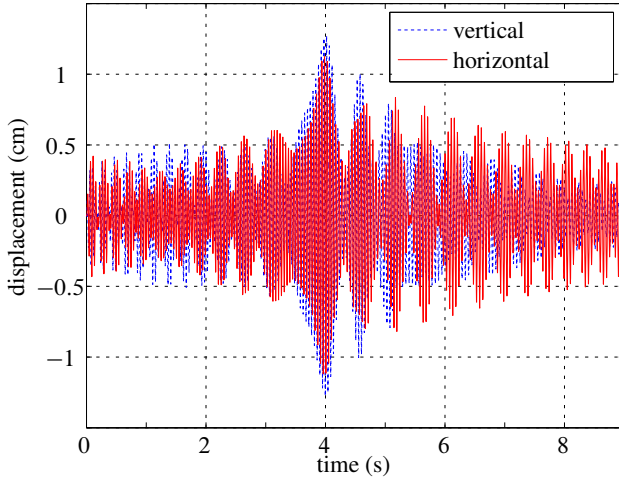


Figure 8. DISPLACEMENTS OF THE NODE OF THE BEARING WITH HYP 1

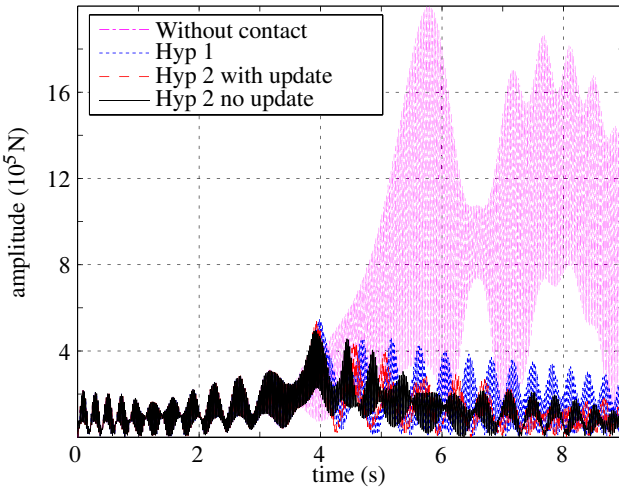


Figure 9. BEARING LOADS WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

Hypothesis	1	2	
Update of contact location		yes	no
CPU time (s)	7742	24743	6845
Max load on bearing (10^5 N)	5.46	4.95	5.36
Max contact force (MN)	3.49	4.29	7.53
Residual penetration (10^{-2} mm)	5.88	6.75	12.36

Table 1. COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

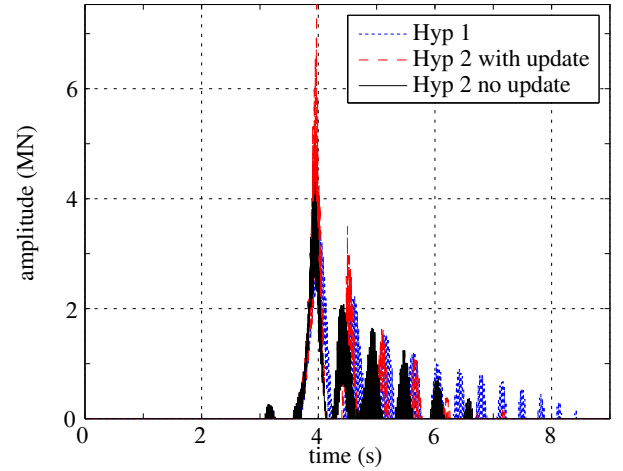


Figure 10. CONTACT FORCES WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

From the beginning of the shutdown up to 3s, no contact occurs. The first contacts arise around 3.05s and correspond to a partial rubbing, as may be seen in figures 10 and 11 from the amplitude of the contact forces. During this phase of light rubbing, the results appear to be independent of the assumptions used for the contact detection, as shown in figure 13 for the available gap at the bearing node. However, when heavy rub occurs, the sensitivity to the assumption on the contact detection becomes obvious. The simulation using the exact contact detection is considered as the reference calculation. Consequently, the contact approximation, referred to as “Hyp 1”, gives approximated results on the evaluation of the bearing loads - see figures 10, 11 - and underestimates the contact forces, see table 1. If the exact contact location is not updated during the iteration process (“Hyp 2 no update”), the residual penetration increases, which leads to an over-estimation of the contact forces, see table 1 and figure 9.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROSPECTS

A mechanical system for rotor-stator interaction has been studied in this paper. The stator is a diaphragm and a flexible model has been proposed with curved beams representing the inner ring and straight beams representing the blades. A numerical tool has been developed to analyze speed transients for shaft-to-diaphragm contact after a blade-off. Based on the Lagrangian

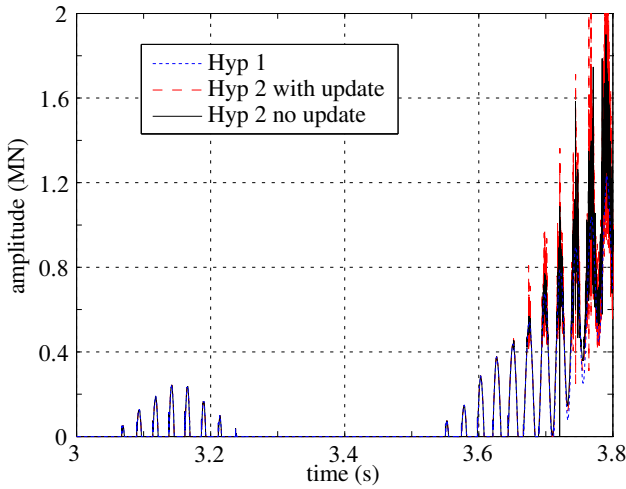


Figure 11. CONTACT FORCES AT FIRST IMPACTS WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

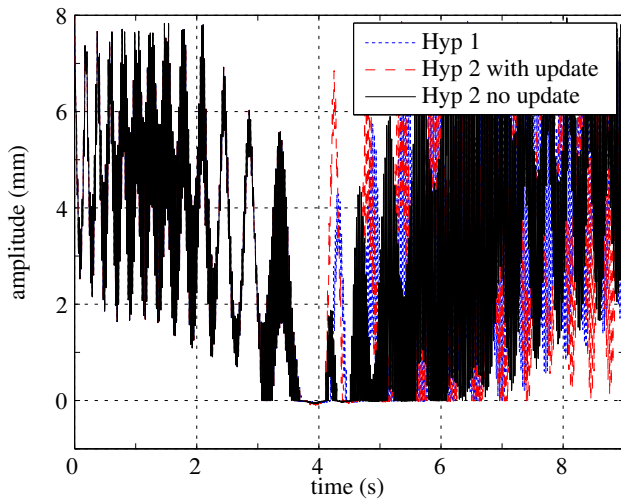


Figure 12. GAP FUNCTION WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

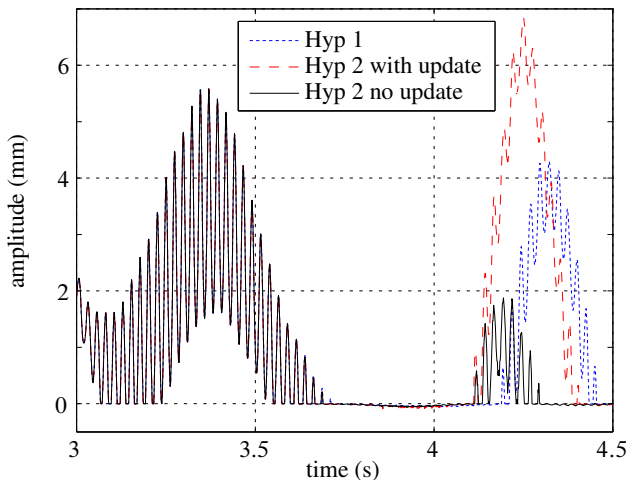


Figure 13. GAP FUNCTION DURING FIRST IMPACTS WITH THE DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS FOR CONTACT DETECTION

multiplier method, different algorithms have been studied for the contact implementation in order to optimize the computation time.

In the case of partial rub, simulations have shown that results do not depend on the assumption made on the quality of the contact detection. However, since this study focuses on accidental shutdowns, full annular rubbing may occur. Results have shown that, when heavy rub occurs, the contact forces are then sensitive to simplifying assumptions for the contact detection. Nonetheless all these assumptions may be used to obtain other quantities of interest such as rotating speed or bearing loads with a good accuracy and saving CPU time.

Experiments on a test rig devoted to rubbing will be performed in the next future in order to validate this rotor-stator interaction modeling. The time integration results will be analyzed by means of the time-frequency tools. Finally, the diaphragm model will be extended by adding axial deformations and work is in progress to take into account the beam-to-beam contact in 3-D space.

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